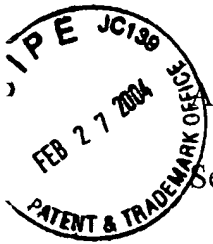


P24130.A01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Applicant : Kei MASUNISHI

Group Art Unit:

Serial No : 10/721,073

Filed : November 26, 2003

For : PHOTOTHERMAL ACTUATOR AND APPARATUS COMPRISING
PHOTOTHERMAL ACTUATOR

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97-1.98, Applicant hereby calls the following documents to the Examiner's attention:

JP 5-253175 to OLYMPUS OPTICAL CO. LTD., published October 5, 1993, as well as an English language abstract and a computer-generated English language translation;

JP 6-133923 to OLYMPUS OPTICAL CO. LTD., published May 17, 1994, as well as an English language abstract and a computer-generated English language translation;

JP 8-266636 to TERUMO CORP., published October 15, 1996, as well as an English language abstract and a computer-generated English language translation;

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JP 8-299447 to MITSUBISHI CABLE INDUSTRIES, LTD., cited at page 1 of the present specification, published November 19, 1996, as well as a certified English language translation;

JP 8-337760 to MITSUBISHI CABLE IND. LTD. and ESASHI MASAKI, published December 24, 1996, as well as an English language abstract and a computer-generated English language translation;

JP 8-510024 to THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE LELAND STANFORD JUNIOR UNIVERSITY, published October 22, 1996, and a family member of U.S. Patent No. 5,405,337 to MAYNARD, issued April 11, 1995;

JP 9-79204 to TOSHIBA CORPORATION, cited at page 2 of the present specification, published March 25, 1997, as well as a certified English language translation;

JP 10-1773 to MITSUBISHI CABLE IND. LTD. and ESASHI MASAKI, published January 6, 1998, as well as an English language abstract and a computer-generated English language translation;

JP 10-24014 to MITSUBISHI CABLE IND. LTD., published January 27, 1998, as well as an English language abstract and a computer-generated English language translation;

JP 10-29190 to MITSUBISHI CABLE IND. CO., published February 2, 1998, as well as an English language abstract and a computer-generated English language translation;

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JP 11-48171 to ESASHI MASAKI and HAGA YOICHI, published February 23, 1999, as well as an English language abstract and a computer-generated English language translation;

JP 11-216186 to AGENCY OF IND. SCIENCE AND TECHNOL., published October 10, 1999, as well as an English language abstract and a computer-generated English language translation;

JP 2001-70453 to JAPAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CORP., published March 21, 2001, as well as an English language abstract and a computer-generated English language translation;

JP 2000-135288 to TOHOKU DENSHI SANGYO KK and MARUYAMA SHIGENAO, published May 16, 2000, as well as an English language abstract and a computer-generated English language translation;

JP 2000-189518 to AGENCY OF IND. SCIENCE AND TECHNOL., published July 11, 2000, as well as an English language abstract and a computer-generated English language translation;

JP 2001-509231 to MEDTRONIC INC., published July 10, 2001, and a family member of U.S. Patent No. 6,169,269 to MAYNARD, issued January 2, 2001;

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JP 2001-526520 to CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE, published December 18, 2001, and a family member of U.S. Patent No. 6,461,337 to MINOTTI et al., issued October 8, 2002;

JP 4-275078 to AGENCY OF INDUSTRIAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY, published September 30, 1992, and a family member of U.S. Patent No. 5,268,082 to OGURO et al., issued December 7, 1993;

JP 1-247809 to KABUSHIKI KAISHA TOSHIBA, published October 3, 1989, and a family member of U.S. Patent No. 4, 976,191 to SUZUMORI et al., issued December 11, 1990;

U.S. Patent No. 5,577,992 to CHIBA et al., issued November 26, 1996; and

U.S. Patent No. 5,860,914 to CHIBA et al., issued January 19, 1999.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider and cite the above documents. A copy of each of the above-noted documents, as well as an English language abstract and/or translation and/or English language family member of the foreign language documents, is attached, and has been listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached hereto. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the Form to the Applicants with the next

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official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

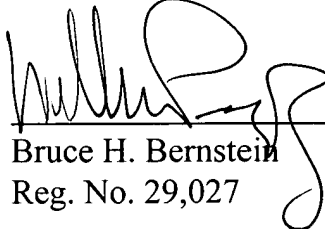
Applicant also brings to the Examiner's attention the following copending, commonly assigned U.S. Patent application:

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/150,927 to SUZUKI et al., filed May 21, 2002 and entitled "An Endoscope System".

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(iii), a copy of the above-noted U.S. Patent application, as filed, is attached hereto.

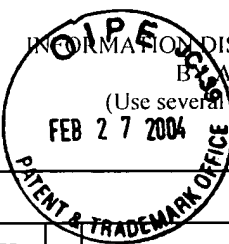
Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Kei MASUNISHI

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January 12, 2004
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Form PTO-1449

U.S. Department of Commerce
Patent and Trademark OfficeAtty. Docket No.
P24130Serial No.
10/721,073

 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
BY APPLICANT
(Use several sheets if necessary)
Applicant
K. MASUNISHIFiling Date
November 26, 2003Group
Unknown

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	5 4 0 5 3 3 7	04/11/95	MAYNARD			
	6 1 6 9 2 6 9	01/02/01	MAYNARD			
	6 4 6 1 3 3 7	10/08/02	MINOTTI et al.			
	5 2 6 8 0 8 2	12/07/93	OGURO et al.			
	4 9 7 6 1 9 1	12/11/90	SUZUMORI et al.			
	5 5 7 7 9 9 2	11/26/96	CHIBA et al.			
	5 8 6 0 9 1 4	01/19/99	CHIBA et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
5 - 2 5 3 1 7 5	10/05/93	JAPAN			X
6 - 1 3 3 9 2 3	05/17/94	JAPAN			X
8 - 2 6 6 6 3 6	10/15/96	JAPAN			X
8 - 2 9 9 4 4 7	11/19/96	JAPAN			X
8 - 3 3 7 7 6 0	12/24/96	JAPAN			X
8 - 5 1 0 0 2 4	10/22/96	JAPAN			
9 - 7 9 2 0 4	03/25/97	JAPAN			X
1 0 - 1 7 7 3	01/06/98	JAPAN			X

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

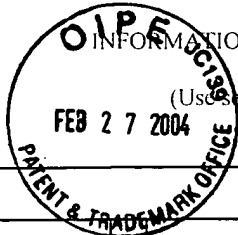
1	English Language Abstract of JP 5-253175.
2	English Language Abstract of JP 6-133923.
3	English Language Abstract of JP 8-266636.
4	English Language Abstract of JP 8-299447.
5	English Language Abstract of JP 8-337760.
6	English Language Abstract of JP 10-1773.
7	English Language Abstract of JP 10-24014.
8	English Language Abstract of JP 10-29190.

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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Patent and Trademark OfficeAtty. Docket No.
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
	1 0 - 2 4 0 1 4	01/27/98	JAPAN			X
	1 0 - 2 9 1 9 0	02/02/98	JAPAN			X
	1 1 - 4 8 1 7 1	02/23/99	JAPAN			X
	1 1 2 1 6 1 8 6	10/10/99	JAPAN			X
20	0 1 - 7 0 4 5 3	03/21/01	JAPAN			X
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20	0 1 5 2 6 5 2 0	12/18/01	JAPAN			
	4 - 2 7 5 0 7 8	09/30/92	JAPAN			
	1 - 2 4 7 8 0 9	10/03/89	JAPAN			

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	9	English Language Abstract of JP 11-48171.
	1 0	English Language Abstract of JP 11-216186.
	1 1	English Language Abstract of JP 2001-70453.
	1 2	English Language Abstract of JP 2000-135288.
	1 3	English Language Abstract of JP 2000-189518.

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

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